

KNOWING
THE
TRUTH

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE

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CHAPTER I

About the Bible

(Bibliology)

HOW THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE WERE COLLECTED.-- Just as every person who appears before a court of law should be given the opportunity to speak for himself, to testify in his own behalf, so the Bible should also be consulted with regard to its own testimony of itself. What does the Bible say about the manner in which its various parts or books were brought together into one large unit, the sixty-six sacred books which we call the Holy Scriptures?

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Write out the passages, as listed, comparing the English translation with the original, if possible, or with a literal translation, and underscore the words which must be given emphasis.

Ex. 17, 14.

Ex. 24, 4.7.

Deut. 31, 24.

Josh. 1, 8.(Cp. Josh.23, 6.)

2 Chron. 34, 14.30. (Cp. 2 Kings 22, 8-11)

Is. 8, 20.

Is. 29, 18.

Is. 34, 16.

Luke 16, 29. 31.

Luke 24, 27.

Luke 24, 44.45.

From the underscored words draw the conclusions which they demand and write them out in logical form, in one or more sentences.

In this connection note in particular the numerous commands of God concerning the writing and preserving of the books of the Bible; the references in later books to earlier books of the Bible; persons of the earlier history spoken of in later books of the Bible, in both the Old and the New Testament.

Guiding Questions.-- What evidence or proof have we that God caused the books of the Bible to be written and preserved? How many statements of Jesus vouch for the truth of the Old Testament? Where are these statements to be found?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers. -- John 14, 23; 15, 23; 16, 13; and 17, 20 as a guarantee of the truth of the New Testament writings. Extra-Biblical books quoted in the Old Testament. Heathen authors and extra-Biblical books referred to in the New Testament.

THE WORD OF GOD AS A MEANS OF GRACE.-- The modern attitude toward the Bible is sometimes that of open hostility, sometimes of patronizing condescension, sometimes of critical analysis. These various attitudes are largely due to the false claims of the so-called science of comparative religion, which places all religions of the world on the same level. But the Bible makes certain claims which cannot be ignored by true searchers after the truth. And it is the purpose of this section to remove our study at once from the mere academic plane and to make it functional.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Write out the passages below, as in the preceding section, endeavoring to reproduce the original also, if commentaries and other helps are available. Under-score the significant words and phrases.

Deut. 6, 7.8.

Deut. 30, 10-14. (Cp. Rom. 10, 6.9.)

Is. 8, 20.

Matt. 15, 1-3.

John 5, 46.47.

Acts 18, 28.

1 Cor. 2, 1.2.

1 Cor. 15, 1.2.

2 Tim. 3, 15-17.

John 5, 39.

Col. 1, 28.

1 Cor. 1, 21.

1 Thess. 2, 13.

Again draw your conclusions from the underscored sections of the passages listed and write them out in the form of statements or propositions, in one or more sentences.

In this section note in particular the fact that these commands, admonitions, and declarations presuppose a definite entity and unity as a basis. We also find that the teaching of the holy men of God, in written form, was accepted as the Word of God, and that this Word was declared to be actually conveying the grace of God to the hearts of men. Cp. John 6, 63b; 17, 20b.

Guiding Questions.-- How does the Word of God work faith? What divine blessing is given to the believer? In what respect are Christians possessors of eternal life?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The acceptance of the Old Testament by the Jews in the days of Jesus and the apostles. The exact significance of the term "means of grace." The strange "enthusiasm" which claims a communication with God outside of the Word.

THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE.-- Since the attitude of professing Christians with reference to the doctrine of inspiration has become a touchstone of sound confessionalism in our days, it is essential that every individual believer have a sound body of information to direct him in the ways of truth. There is no contradiction between the writing of the books of the Scriptures by men and their divine authorship. On the other hand, verbal inspiration is not to be degraded to a mere mechanical operation.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Write out these passages, as in the preceding section, endeavoring to reproduce the original as closely as possible, from some literal translation, and underscore the significant words and phrases.

John 5, 46.47.

Rom. 15, 15.(Cp.1 Cor.5,9;2 Cor.2,3.4.9;Gal.1,20;Phil.3,1;1 Tim. 5, 14.)

1 John 1, 4.

1 John 2, 1.13.

2 Sam. 23, 1.2.

Ps. 45, 1.

1 Cor. 2, 13.

2 Tim. 3, 15-17.

1 Pet. 1, 10.11.

2 Pet. 1, 21.

Again draw your conclusions from the underscored sections of the passages written out, and present them in the form of statements or propositions, in one or more sentences.

In this section, note in particular that the Scripture itself excludes the notion of a mechanical inspiration. On the other hand, a careful comparison of the passages listed, as well as others, will clearly show that not only the doctrinal parts of the Bible are inspired but that every word of the text was transmitted to the writers while the Spirit moved them to write.

Guiding Questions.-- How can we show that the attacks on the verbal inspiration of the Bible are wrong? Show from a number of examples that the Lord used the gifts and the training of the various writers in producing the books of Scripture.

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- Evidence for the fact that even individual words of the Bible are inspired. An analysis of the passages which make the Holy Ghost the author of the Scriptures. The prophecies of the Bible as a witness of its inspiration.

THE CONTENT OF THE BIBLE: LAW AND GOSPEL.-- In our study of the inspiration of the Bible and related subjects, we do not emphasize this fact in a more mechanical way, but we keep in mind the content and purpose of the Bible. There is no way of salvation but by the knowledge of sin and grace, and the Bible, to all believing Christians, must mean a source book emphasizing just those facts, namely that we are dealing with a living book. Jesus is the Savior of sinners, having come to seek and to save that which was lost. In dealing with the Bible, therefore, we must ever keep in mind that by the Law is the knowledge of sin, and by the Gospel is the knowledge of the Savior. Only as we appreciate these facts shall we study our Bible with the right attitude.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Write out these passages, as in the preceding sections of the chapter. Try to obtain a literal translation of the original text, in order to get the finer shades of meaning in the text. Underscore the important words or phrases.

Rom. 3, 9-20.

Rom. 7, 7.

Dan. 9, 5.

Ps. 51, 3.4.

1 Tim. 1, 5-10.

Mark 1, 15.

Rom. 1, 16.

Acts 14, 3.

1 Pet. 1, 25.

Matt. 24, 14.

1 Thess. 2, 13.

Again draw your conclusions from the underscored sections of the passages, in connection with the class discussion. Then present your conclusions in the form of statements or propositions, in one or more sentences.

We should note, in this connection, that both the Law and the Gospel are found in both Testaments. We observe very carefully the distinction between the Moral Law, on the one hand, and the Ceremonial Law and the Civil Law, on the other. We take notice of the fact that the Gospel was preached since the proclamation of the first Messianic prophecy in the Garden of Eden.

Guiding Questions.-- How can we distinguish between the Moral and the Civil Law in the Old Testament? In what respect does the preaching of the Law prepare the way for the teaching of the Gospel? Which are the three uses of the Law?

Suggestions for Projects or Term Papers. -- The proper distinction between Law and Gospel is the supreme test of a Christian teacher's fitness for his office. The foolishness of trying to build the Church by the teaching of the Law. The danger of using the Gospel as a prop for lazy Christians. The Gospel as the Word of God's grace.

THE AUTHORITY AND SUFFICIENCY OF THE BIBLE.-- If the Bible is the inspired Word of God, as our study up to this point has led us to believe, then we are anxious to have another consideration properly evaluated, namely that of the dominion and competency of the Bible. All Christians should satisfy themselves on such points as these: Is the Holy Scripture truly authoritative? Does it have the power of God behind it and in it? And does it satisfy all the spiritual needs of believers everywhere and at all times? In this instance, also, we let the Bible speak for itself.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.--These passages are to be consulted, first, according to the current English (and possibly the German) translation, but with an endeavor to ascertain the exact meaning of each word according to the original language. Write them out and underscore the significant words and phrases.

1 Cor. 2, 1-4.13.

Gal. 1, 11.12.

John 17, 17.

Luke 24, 25.

Ps. 119, 140.160.167.

Matt. 28, 20.

2 Cor. 1, 20.

Titus 1, 2.3.

2 Pet. 1, 19.

Is. 8, 19.20.

Luke 16, 29-31.

Rom. 15, 4.

With the heading of this section in mind, draw your conclusions concerning the truths enunciated by the Lord. Discussion in class may assist in formulating statements or propositions, in one or more sentences.

We should here keep in mind that the Bible throughout demands adherence to its statements, presenting them as the absolute truth. The holy writers put down the truths which they were inspired to write, but with the full consciousness that they were speaking in the name of the Lord and that they taught the way of salvation.

Guiding Questions.-- What follows from the insistence of the holy writers upon the testimony which they offer? How does Christ's guarantee to His apostles in John 17 apply to the present time? What reasons have we for believing that the Bible contains all that we need for salvation?

Suggestions for Projects or Term Papers.-- The foolishness of seeking guidance for salvation outside of the Bible. The difference between canonical and apocryphal presentation. The Bible invites and inspires the trust and confidence of men.

THE CLARNESS AND THE EFFICACY OF THE BIBLE.-- A good many people complain that the Bible is hard to understand, that they do not get anything out of their reading of the Bible. The Roman Catholic Church has declared that the Bible is, on the whole, a dark book, and therefore requires the interpretation given by church councils and popes. These assertions are apparently supported by passages like 2 Pet. 3, 16 and Acts 8, 31.34. What attitude are we to take with reference to the Bible as a book of private study and personal application?

The Most Important and Significant Passages.--- The passages listed below are again to be compared, if possible, with a literal translation of the original and with translations in other languages, in order to determine the exact meaning. Underscore the words and phrases which make specific declarations concerning the topic above.

2 Cor. 4, 3.4.

Is. 8, 9.

John 8, 43-47.

Ps. 119, 130.

Ps. 19, 8.9.

2 Pet. 1, 19.

John 8, 31.32.

Rom. 1, 16.

1 Thess. 1, 5.

1 Thess. 2, 13.

Rev. 1, 3.

John 7, 17.

Draw your conclusions on the basis of the words underscore and the class discussion, offering them in one or more sentences.

Mark carefully the distinction between the revelation of the Bible regarding the way of salvation and other revelations of a prophetic and apocalyptic nature which are not necessary to know the way of salvation

Guiding Questions.--- What do we mean when we speak of the clearness of the Bible? What do we understand by the word efficacy? What course are we to pursue with regard to the apparently dark passages of the Bible?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers. -- A plan for the systematic study of the Bible. The need and method of cross reference work in the Bible. The use of chain reference Bibles. The basis of the Bible's efficacy. Scriptura Scripturam interpretatur.

CHAPTER II

The Doctrine of God (Theology)

THE NATURAL KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.-- Since we now have the truths concerning the Bible, its origin, its inspiration, its contents, its purpose, and other facts clearly in mind, our next step is, in the same manner, to learn about the one true God, as He is revealed to us in the Bible. This is all the more necessary since, in our days, the so-called sciences of the philosophy of religion and of comparative religion are threatening to break down the conception of the God of the Bible as the only true God and to acknowledge man-made gods, as we find them in the false religions and philosophies of former times and of our day. Since we accept the Bible as the one absolute source of truth, we turn to its pages for the information that we need.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- As in the first chapter, we consult the passages listed below, making a comparison, if possible, with a good literal translation, in order to find the exact meaning of the words which God gave us for our learning. Underscore the significant words and phrases.

Acts 17, 23-30.

Rom. 1, 20-28.

Rom. 2, 14-16.

Eph. 4, 17-22.

Heb. 10, 2.

After, or during, the discussion in class, draw your conclusions on the basis of the words underscored, which deal with the natural knowledge of God. Put down your conclusions in one or more sentences.

Be sure to note just wherein this natural knowledge of God consisted, how much it comprised, what its purpose is, why it is inadequate for a proper knowledge of the true God.

Guiding Questions.-- Why do we speak of a remnant of a knowledge of God? What do we mean when we refer to a natural understanding of the will of God? What is the relation of conscience to a natural man's attitude toward God?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- Examples of heathen seeking after the true God on the basis of the remnant of the natural knowledge of God. The function of conscience in the life of a heathen. The meaning of conscience in the life of a Christian. The only adequate knowledge of God.

THE REVELATION OF GOD.-- There are people in this world who deny the existence of God. They are commonly called atheists, a name which they themselves often accept and flaunt with great arrogance. They even go out and try to gain disciples for their views, in order to overthrow all religion, specifically the Christian religion. Christians are often deeply concerned about such attacks, but not discouraged. For the Bible speaks of people of this type as fools. Ps. 14, 1; 53, 1. And the Bible tells us just why the true God looks upon atheists and irreligious people as fools. Some passages of the previous section have spoken about the revelation of God concerning Himself. But we have additional passages which teach us some definite lessons.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- The passages, as listed, are to be written out, preferably in a literal translation. The words and phrases in which the holy writers speak of the revelation of God are to be underscored.

Job 38, 4. (Cp. the entire chapter.)

Ps. 19, 1-3.

Ps. 104, 5.24.

Ps. 145, 9.15.18.

Amos 4, 13 (Cp. 5, 8)

Rom. 1, 19-21.

Prov. 16, 1.

Prov. 21, 1.

Dan. 4, 34.35.

Acts 17, 28.

Deut. 4, 35.

John 1, 18.

The conclusions should be drawn and written out, as usual, in one or more sentences.

Be sure to note the difference between the knowledge of God in nature, and that by specific revelation. The latter will be treated more fully in another lesson.

Guiding Questions.-- Why does Scripture apply the name fool to those who deny the existence of God? To what may we ascribe the origin of idolatry? Which attributes of God are brought out in the passages above?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The original religion of mankind was monotheism. The book of history is a revelation of God. The only adequate revelation of God is that in Christ.

THE ESSENCE OF GOD.-- That the natural knowledge of God is insufficient for salvation is evident from the passages which we have studied until now. While it is true that every intelligent human being is able to draw definite conclusions concerning the one Supreme Being who governs the universe, the reason of man is able to comprehend, by itself, only the unity of God and certain attributes connected with His relation to the world, as we shall see in one of the next lessons. For that reason Christians will turn to the Bible for all adequate information concerning the essence of God.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Write out the passages, as listed below, or the significant parts of them, comparing the English translation with a literal rendering from the original, if possible, and underscore words and phrases that tell of the essence of God.

Deut. 6, 4.

Mark 12, 29.32.

John 17, 3.

Is. 44, 6.

Is. 48, 12.

Gen. 1, 26.27.

Is. 40, 11-12.

Is. 42, 1.2.

Is. 63, 8-10.

Matt. 3, 16.17.

Eph. 1, 17.

1 Pet. 1, 3.

John 20, 28.

Acts 5, 3.4.

Draw your conclusions and write them out, in one or more sentences also on the basis of the class discussion.

Distinguish between the unity and the trinity in God, and note the combination of thought in some of the passages.

Guiding Questions. --How do we, in our Catechism, avoid the contradiction between the one and the three? How is the personality of each person of the Godhead brought out in Scripture?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The activity of the three persons of the Godhead in the work of creation. The activity of the three persons of the Godhead in the work of redemption. Three, persons, each of whom is God; and yet not three gods, but only one God.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD: INDIVISIBILITY, UNCHANGEABLENESS, INFINITY.

The attributes of God which are here treated are not ordinarily spoken of in Catechism instruction before and after confirmation. But the great teachers of the Lutheran Church, in their doctrinal theologies, discuss these attributes or qualities of God, and every teacher of the Church should be familiar with the terms, also in order to be able to distinguish between true and false teaching in the field of theology. We follow our usual procedure in consulting the inerrant Word of God for information on our topic.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- The passages given here are not arranged according to the order of attributes named in the heading of the section. They should be written out, and a comparison with the original or a literal translation will be particularly valuable at this point.

Ex. 7, 14.

Jas. 1, 17.

Mal. 3, 6.

Is. 40, 28.

Ps. 102, 26-27.

Rom. 1, 23.

1 Tim. 6, 16.

1 Kings 8, 27.

Jer. 23, 24.

Ps. 103, 19.

Ps. 90, 2.

Ps. 102, 25-27.

Ps. 115, 3.

Draw your conclusions on the three divisions of our subject and put them down in one or more sentences.

Note that certain verses of Scripture may give information on several attributes of God, and that the teacher of the Word should have a clear conception of these distinctions.

Guiding Questions. -- What relation is there between the indivisibility of God and the three persons in the Godhead? How does the immortality of God prove His unchangeableness? Compare the divine infinity and omnipresence.

Suggestion for Projects and Term Papers.-- God is not limited by space or time. The true humanity of Christ in its relation to His deity. God as immeasurable and incomprehensible being.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD: LIFE, INTELLIGENCE, WISDOM, WILL.-- The attributes of God which are studied in the previous section are called negative qualities; they are within the essence of God. Those treated in the present section are so-called positive qualities, as the great teachers of our Church call them; they connect God with His creatures - specifically with man, the foremost creature. While heathen may draw conclusions as to the presence of these attributes in the essence of God, they cannot comprehend their scope and significance. This can be done only on the basis of Scriptural study.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Using, as far as possible, a literal translation of the passages here given and comparing the English translation with other translations (German, Latin, etc.) if feasible, write out the verses and underscore the most significant expressions.

Jer. 10, 10.

Ps. 84, 2.

Acts 14, 15.

1 Tim. 1, 17.

John 5, 26.

1 Sam. 2, 3.

John 1, 18.

1 John 3, 20.

Ps. 139, 1-4.

Job 12, 13.

1 Tim. 1, 17.

Eph. 1, 7.8.

Ps. 135, 6.

Ps. 33, 9.10.

The conclusions drawn on the basis of careful study and class discussion are to be written out in one or more sentences.

The verses listed above are given in the order usually employed, but it may be advisable to use a different order in drawing conclusions. Distinguish carefully between the attributes listed.

Guiding Questions.-- With the attribute of life as an attribute of God in mind, consult and discuss John 1, 4. What is meant by the statement that God is the Source and the Dispenser of all life? Explain the attribute of the will of God.

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers. -- The intelligence of God gives Him a full and adequate comprehension of Himself and the whole universe. The highest expression of the wisdom of God is found in the plan of redemption. The relation between the holy and the righteous, and the good and gracious will of God.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD: HOLINESS, JUSTICE, TRUTH, GOODNESS, AND POWER.
 -- As in the previous section, these attributes of God are also known as positive qualifications; they connect God with His creatures, specifically with man. For Christians in particular these attributes afford an interesting and profitable study, since they come into consideration also in the work of redemption. Whatever information may be contained in mere human books can have value only in the measure in which it agrees with the one infallible source of truth, the Word of God.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- again we write out the passages listed below, endeavoring, if possible, to make a careful comparison with the original or a literal translation, which may often be found also in another modern rendering.

Lev. 19, 3.

Is. 6, 3.

Rev. 15, 4.

Is. 41, 20.

Deut. 32, 4.

Ps. 89, 14.

Ps. 19, 9.

1 John 1, 9.

2 Tim. 4, 8.

Jer. 10, 10.11.

Rom. 3, 3.4.

Ps. 146, 6.

1 John 4, 16.

Titus 3, 4-7.

Eph. 2, 4.8.9.

Luke 1, 37.

Ps. 115, 3.

Draw your conclusions, as usual, and present them in one or more sentences.

Establish the meaning of each attribute of God on the basis of the context in which the verse appears in the Bible.

Guiding Questions.-- Distinguish between the idea of sinlessness and essential holiness in God. What distinction, if any, is there between faithfulness and truth in God?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- Each attribute of God as an expression of His whole essence. There is no contradiction between the various attributes of God. The relation between the grace

CHAPTER III Creation and Preservation (Cosmology)

HOW THE WORLD WAS CREATED.-- The question as to the origin of the world and the universe has engaged the attention of innumerable minds since the dawn of history. Many of the ancient philosophers, like many scientists today, have embraced and defended some kind of theory like that of evolution, according to which the present world is supposed to have developed in the course of untold millions of years, by means of inherent powers. In a modified form this theory is held even by many people in the outward Church, for they hold that there is indeed a Creator, but that He provided only the original matter, and possibly the laws, and that the world, as we now know it, evolved by itself. (Theistic evolution.) We get our information from the Bible.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Consult the passages listed and compare the English translation with a literal translation, if possible, in order to get every thought exactly as given in the text.

Heb. 11, 3.

Gen. 1, 1-31 (List the order of creation.)

Ps. 33, 6.

Ex. 20, 11. (Cp. 31, 17.)

John 1, 1-3.

Col. 1, 15, 16.

Jer. 32, 17.

Amos 4, 13.

Prov. 8, 22-31.

Rev. 4, 11.

Draw your conclusions from the texts, as you have them underlined, on the basis of study and class discussion, and present your conclusions in one or more sentences.

It will be of value to indicate the distinction between the persons of the Godhead with whom the work of creation is associated.

Guiding Questions.-- What do the Exodus passages, compared with those in Gen. 1 and 2, teach us concerning the length of a creation day? How does the First Article emphasize the fact that we are dealing here with an article of faith? Quote one or more passages to show that the Holy Ghost is likewise included in the work of creation.

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The relation between the primal light and that of the light bodies. The creation as an evidence of God's wisdom and power. The second person of the Godhead in the creation of the world.

THE EFFECT AND THE OBJECT OF CREATION.-- According to the theory of evolution the various animate and inanimate beings in the universe are, to a large extent, the result of a chance working of laws of nature, which somehow control the genera and species of existing things. And each higher form of life is considered to be, in some way, the result and the product of an evolutionary process, so that the original ancestor of man is supposed to be a one-celled form of animal living in the ooze of the ocean depths. We are not here concerned with the fact that the claims of evolution are unreasonable and do not agree with scientific facts. We turn to the Bible to find out what God says about the purpose of His creating the world and all that is therein.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- The passages listed are to be consulted, if possible, with a literal translation, and written out, at least in their most important parts, for careful study.

Col. 1, 16.

Gen. 1, 8.

Deut. 10, 14.

2 Cor. 12, 2-4.

Heb. 12, 22. 23.

Acts 17, 28. (Cp. Rom. 1, 25.)

Ps. 19, 1-6.

Prov. 16, 4. (Cp. Rev. 4, 11.)

Draw your conclusions on the basis of careful textual study and the discussion in class, and present your conclusions in one or more sentences.

Note the comprehensiveness of the Biblical statements concerning the act and the scope of creation. Mark also that the Bible includes the invisible world in the creation of God.

Guiding Questions.-- What effect is the contemplation of the various works of creation bound to have on the careful observer? When were the angels created? What is the final object of the creation?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- There are creatures beyond the reach of man's senses and understanding. In preparing this world the Lord had in mind chiefly the welfare and happiness of man. Paradise is the heaven of the angels and the perfected saints.

THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD AND THE PRESERVATION OF CREATION.-- When the deists, in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, flourished in England and influenced also a part of the Continent, they not only denied the divine revelation of God's truth and the fundamental facts of salvation, but asserted also that the Creator had abandoned the world after calling it into being, leaving the creatures to their own devices. They usually compared the process to that of an architect who plans a building and superintends its construction, but then turns it over to a tenant and has no further responsibility for it. We consult the Bible to find out what God reveals concerning His relation to the world and the universe which He created.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Since many of the passages listed are in the Old Testament, it will be advisable to find a good literal translation, in order to understand exactly what the text of Scripture says. The verses should be written out carefully and the important points underscored.

Heb. 1, 3.

Col. 1, 17.

Ps. 104, 30.

Acts 17, 26-28.

Acts 14, 17.

Gen. 1, 11.12.

Gen. 8, 22.

Ps. 119, 90.

Ps. 147, 9.

Matt. 10, 29.

Matt. 5, 45.

Jer. 23, 23.

Gen. 50, 20.

Ps. 33, 13-15.

Draw your conclusions from the texts and the class discussion, and write them out in one or more sentences.

Note that the power of God is spoken of, also the expression or application of this power, both in the preservation of His creatures and in the government of the world.

Guiding Questions.-- How do we distinguish between the providence of God and the work of preservation? What are the chief points of consideration in the providence of God? What is the relation of God to evil in the world? (Cp. e.g., Amos 3, 6.)

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The interference of Satan with God's creatures, with the permission of God. Wisdom and power as the chief attributes of God in governing the world. God works through natural means provided by Him in the preservation of the world.

THE ANGELS (Angelology).-- We have had several references to angels in previous lessons, and the subject deserves special attention, especially since the idea of the supernatural finds little favor in our days. While the belief in angels is stressed in Jewish theology, and also in the Mohammedan and in the Parsee religion, which were, at least in part, derived from Jewish (and Christian) sources, many scientists and liberal theologians place angels into the domain of superstition. This attitude is particularly strong with regard to the idea of a personal devil. Christians will, therefore, turn to the Word of God for information also on this subject.

The Most Significant and Important Passages.-- The list here given offers only a selection of pertinent passages, and these should be consulted, compared with the original and with other translations, if possible, then written out, with the significant words and phrases underscored.

Gen. 2, 2.

Dan. 7, 10.

Rev. 5, 11.

Luke 2, 13.

Heb. 1, 14.

Matt. 25, 31.

2 Thess. 1, 7.

1 Pet. 3, 22.

1 Tim. 5, 21.

Jude 6.

Matt. 18, 10.

2 Pet. 2, 4.

Rev. 12, 9.

After your conclusions are drawn from the study of the texts and the discussion in class, write your points out in one or more sentences.

It will be profitable to indicate the several subdivisions of the topic, the time of creation of the angels, the good angels, the evil angels, the state of bliss, etc.

Guiding Questions.-- What about procreation and propagation among angels? (Cp. Gen. 6, 4.) What does the distinction between good and evil angels signify? What is the particular position and function of Satan?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The relation of the good angels to the salvation of men. The concept of everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. The meaning of the phrase "Child of the devil."

THE "ANGEL OF THE LORD."-- As we have seen, the Bible frequently makes mention of angels, those holy spirits whom God created that they should sing His praises, carry out His commands, and serve His children on earth. We have also learned about the angels that left their own habitation, as they rebelled under the leadership of Satan, the arch-enemy of God. All these are created angels. But in addition to this we have some two-score passages in the Old Testament which speak of another "Angel", one who is evidently not a member of the group of created beings of whom we have heard. Who is this "Angel of the Lord" in the Old Testament? The Bible is our only source of information.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Of the many passages which might be consulted here only twelve are listed below. It is rather important here that the text of the Authorized Version be compared with a literal translation, since not only the name is important, but also the description of the attributes. Underscore the significant words.

Gen. 16, 7ff. (Cp. Gen. 21, 17.)

Gen. 18, 19. (Cp. Gen. 22, 11.)

Gen. 32, 24. (Cp. Hos. 12, 3-5.)

Gen. 48, 16.

Ex. 14, 19.

Num. 22, 22ff.

Judg. 2, 1-4.

Judg. 6, 11.

Judg. 13, 2ff.

2 Sam. 24, 16ff.

1 Kings 19, 5-7.

Ps. 34, 7; 35, 5.6. (Cp. Mal. 3, 1.)

On the basis of your textual study and the discussion in class state your conclusions in one or more sentences.

Note the difference between the descriptions of the uncreated Angel, His Names, His attributes, His works, His divine honor and glory.

Guiding Question.-- What evidence is there in the various texts that the believers of the Old Testament recognized this "Angel" as divine? Which adjective or name of the "Angel" used in speaking to Manoah is found also in Isaiah?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The deity of the Angel of the Lord according to Zech. 1, 8ff; 3, 1ff.; 12, 8. The distinction between the first and the second person of the Godhead in the story of the destruction of Sodom, Gen. 19, 15ff. The Angel of the Lord at the conquest of Jericho. Josh. 5, 6.

CHAPTER III The Doctrine of Man (Anthropology)

THE STATE OF INNOCENCE.-- From the earliest days of recorded history and probably before that time, men have held and taught certain views regarding the original state of man. Certain philosophers in particular have made this question the subject of their speculations. We could devote much space and time to the study of such accounts, especially since many of the traditions speak of a primeval "golden age" of mankind, when there was no evil in the world, but gods and men lived in perfect harmony with one another. Interesting as this subject is from another angle, our present purpose is to find out what the Bible says on the topic of the original state of man, as he came forth from the hand of God.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Some of the passages listed below are fairly difficult and therefore will almost require a comparison with a literal rendering. This should be written out and properly underscored, as in previous sections.

Gen. 1, 26.27.

Gen.2, 7.

Gen. 2, 21.22.

Gen. 1, 31.

Col. 3, 10.

Eph. 4, 24.

Job 33, 4.

Ps. 139, 14.

These passages present several different, though related, thoughts, and the conclusions drawn on the basis of textual study and discussion in class should present each thought in a separate sentence.

We take note of what Scripture says of the result of God's creation in itself, of the image of God in man, and of the fact that man is wonderfully made, for everything was very good as it came from the hands of the Creator.

Guiding Questions.-- Why do we hold that these facts are an article of faith? Wherein did the image of God in man consist? How can we prove the statement, often made in our Church, that man is the crown of God's creation?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The first woman, as created by God, shared all the advantages of the man. The difference between the holiness of God and that of man, as first created. The meaning of "righteousness" in Eph. 4, 24.

THE STATE OF CORRUPTION.-- According to theories held in modern biology and psychology, man developed or was evolved from an animal ancestry. His earliest history, therefore, shows him in a very low mental and moral state, hardly above the brute creation. The supposition is that man then raised himself from this brute stage, in the process of evolution, until mankind reached its present state of enlightenment. This is to culminate, according to many teachers of our day, in an age of special glory, when all evil in the world will be completely eliminated. Although these theories can be shown to be false, even on the basis of true scientific inquiry and historical investigation, we turn to the Word of God for information as to the present moral state of man.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Consult and write out the passages listed below, making comparison with a literal translation, if possible, and underscore words and phrases that seem to have a bearing on our topic.

Gen. 3, 1-6. 13.

1 Tim. 2, 14.

Rom. 5, 12.

Rom. 5, 19.

Rev. 12, 9.

Eph. 2, 1-3.

John 3, 6.

1 Cor. 2, 14.

Gen. 8, 21.

Rom. 8, 17.

Draw your conclusions on the basis of these passages and the discussion in class and put them down in one or more sentences.

Here also several related thoughts are brought out, and these should be put down in separate sentences: the beginning of evil, the propagation of evil, the present state of the natural man's mind, etc.

Guiding Questions.-- What is meant by "priority" of Eve's sin? Why does the blame and the guilt of sin attach to Adam in the same degree as to Eve? How are we to judge the statement, often heard, that little children are innocent?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The use of the word "flesh" to describe man's natural sinful state. The fall of man as an historical fact. The distinction, if any, between inherited and original sin.

CHAPTER V.
The Doctrine of the Person of Christ
(Christology)

THE DEITY OF CHRIST.-- When the aged Simeon told Mary, the mother of Jesus, that He would be a "sign to be spoken against," he uttered a prophecy which has been abundantly fulfilled during these many centuries and is being fulfilled before our eyes today. During the last century there has grown up an enormous volume of literature on Jesus of Nazareth, so that it has received recognition as a special category under the name "Leben-Jesu Literatur." It constitutes a library in itself. Some of the books written on the subject flatly contradict the Bible account of Christ, some are neutral or try to take a favorable attitude, without acknowledging all the claims of the Bible, and only a few accept the sacred account without question. In looking for the truth on this subject, we turn to the infallible source of truth, the Word of God.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Write out the passages as listed, referring to a literal translation wherever possible, and underline the significant words and phrases of each text.

Is. 9, 6.

Jer. 23, 6.

Luke 2, 11.

John 20, 28.

Rom. 9, 5.

1 John 5, 20.

Rom. 8, 32.

John 1, 18. (Cp. John 3, 16)

John 8, 58.

Matt. 28, 18-20.

Col. 2, 3.

John 5, 23.

Draw your conclusions from the texts written out, in one or more sentences, and arrange your work in logical order.

Here again several thoughts are suggested, for the proof is both direct and indirect. You may follow the order of the proof as given in the Catechism.

Guiding Questions.-- How does the divine Sonship prove the deity of Christ? What is the difference between His Sonship and ours, as believers? If Christ were not true God, what about our salvation?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers. -- The deity of Christ according to His own sayings in the Gospel of John. The eternity of Christ according to Ps. 2. The divine names and the divine qualities of Christ as proofs of His deity.

THE TRUE HUMANITY OF CHRIST.--- Just as some people, from the beginning, questioned and denied the deity of the Savior, so others taught that He had not really been a true man. Even before the end of the first century this notion had gained so much headway that the Apostle John made it a point to emphasize the human nature of the Savior as well as His deity. In our days the attacks on His deity are more prevalent than the other, and yet many people do not appreciate the real significance of the fact that our Savior was "also true man, born of the Virgin Mary." Therefore we turn to the Bible, in order to find out just what we must believe concerning the humanity of Christ.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.--- All but the first of the passages listed below are from the New Testament; hence the Greek text may be consulted for the sake of comparison and to get the exact meaning. Write out the verses and underscore the significant words and phrases.

Is. 7, 14. (Cp. Matt. 1, 23.)

1 Tim. 2, 5.6.

Luke 1 and 2. (The story of the Savior's incarnation by the Virgin Mary.)

Rom. 9, 5.

Gal. 4, 4.

Heb. 2, 14.

Matt. 26, 38.

John 10, 15.

Luke 24, 39.

Matt. 26, 12.26.

Write out your conclusions, as usually, in one or more sentences or statements, taking care to differentiate between the various thoughts.

We take care to emphasize the human origin of the Lord, putting down the most important points which definitely state that Jesus of Nazareth was truly of our flesh and of our bones. Cp. Eph. 5, 30; Phil. 2, 7.

Guiding Questions.--- What specific points may we state with regard to the true humanity of Jesus, on the basis of the list above? What other proofs for the true humanity of Jesus can be adduced from the gospels? How does the doctrine of the true human nature of Jesus affect the doctrine of our redemption?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.--- The true humanity of Christ according to the story of His nativity. Proofs for the true humanity of Jesus from the accounts of His death. The institution of the Lord's Supper and the true humanity of Jesus.

THE PERSONAL UNION IN CHRIST.-- Human reason can, of course, not penetrate into the mystery of the person of Jesus Christ, the God-man. But for that very reason men have often tried to make things taught in the Bible reasonable to themselves. Some, who wanted to hold to the true deity and the true humanity of Jesus, tried to explain the mystery to themselves and others by speaking of a dual personality, on the order of a Doctor Jekyll and Mr. Hyde affair. Others have held that Jesus was born as a true human being and remained only that until His baptism, when the divine nature was joined with the human nature. Others here add that this arrangement was again changed at the death of Jesus. We inquire what the Bible says.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- In this section all the passages are from the New Testament (although there is material for proof also in the Old), and therefore the original may be consulted, with a view of putting down the truth as given by inspiration. The most important words and phrases are to be underscored.

John 1, 14.

Luke 1, 43.

Heb. 2, 14.

Matt. 16, 13.16.

Rom. 1, 3.4.

Rom. 9, 5.

1 John 5, 20.

Luke 1, 35.

1 John 1, 7.

Write out the conclusions which grow out of your study of the texts and the class discussion, stating clearly that one person is spoken of, and yet two natures are referred to.

Keeping in mind the two natures, we must try to understand just why this union was necessary in the interest of our salvation. This question will be taken up in detail in the next chapter.

Guiding Questions.-- What is the meaning of the term "personal union"? How may we distinguish between the eternity of the Son of God and the eternity of the man Jesus? What is meant by the doctrine of subordination?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers. -- The miraculous fact that the "Son of God was made incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary." The significance of the expression "Son of Man." The unity of person does not mean the union of two persons.

THE COMMUNION OF NATURES IN CHRIST.-- The doctrine of the person and work of Christ caused so much trouble in the early Church that some phase of the difficulty was treated at the sessions of six general councils. First Arius and his adherents declared that Jesus Christ was true God, co-equal with the Father. Later some teachers stated that there are two persons in Christ, still others that there is only one nature in Christ, still others that the personal union, of which we have just learned, was not permanent in the person of Christ. And there were other strange views, some of which became heretical. Our knowledge of the communion of natures in Christ is again taken from the Scriptures alone.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- We here consult the passages listed, if possible with literal translations of all the passages. Use also help of commentaries if they offer an exact rendering of the original. Write out the passages and underline the most significant words and phrases.

Her. 23, 5.6.

Col. 2, 9.

Heb. 2, 14.

John 1, 14.

Gal. 4, 4.

1 Cor. 15, 46.47.

Luke 2, 11.

Rom. 1, 3.

Write out the conclusions drawn on the basis of the study made, together with the discussion in class, in one or more statements or sentences.

We note here that the two natures of Christ remain essentially distinct, although they are personally united in the person of Christ. The divine nature is the nature of the Son of Man, and the human nature the nature of the Son of God.

Guiding Questions. -- What distinction with regard to the natures of Christ must every believer observe? Which errors of early heretics set aside the Scriptural doctrine of the communion of natures in Christ? What is meant by the fulness of the Godhead?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- Explanation of Mark 13, 32 in the light of the passages above. Explanation of the line: "O sorrow dread: our God is dead."

THE COMMUNICATION OF ATTRIBUTES.-- In these days of doctrinal indifference those who seem to have any regard for Jesus yet frequently stress only His human side or His humanity. They speak of Him as the great Teacher and Exemplar, the most perfect Man who ever lived on this earth. But a Christian who has begun to penetrate into the mystery of Christ's substitutionary atonement will be constantly stimulated to study this supreme mystery, in order to appreciate ever more thoroughly and adequately what it means that the Son of God loved us and died for us. Here no human philosophy will suffice to make even a beginning in solving the mystery. We must turn to the Bible to learn about the communication of attributes in the person of Christ.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- The passages listed here are again all taken from the New Testament, and may therefore be consulted in the original, in order to obtain a literal translation and to understand the divine thoughts as exactly as possible. Underscore the important words and phrases.

1 Pet. 3, 18.

1 Pet. 4, 1.

Rom. 1, 3.

Acts 20, 28.

1 Cor. 2, 8.

Acts 3, 15.

Gal. 2, 20.

Matt. 22, 42.43.

Col. 1, 13.14.

John 3, 13.

Col. 2, 3.

1 Cor. 15, 3.

Write out the conclusions drawn from your study of the text and the discussion in class, in one or more sentences, endeavoring to stress the significant points.

We ought to note, in particular, that attributes and activities which are peculiar to the one or the other nature are ascribed to the other nature in a most self-evident manner, in accordance with the fact of the communion of natures.

Guiding Questions.-- In the list given above, which attributes are peculiarly divine? Which are peculiarly human? What special difficulties does our human reason encounter here?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The mystery of the communication of attributes in the light of Acts 4, 10-12. The mystery of Christ's true humanity in the light of John 1, 18. The relation of the communication of attributes to the work of redemption.

THE SINLESSNESS OF CHRIST.-- The character of Jesus, as it is frequently designated in modern literature, has baffled the ingenuity of thousands of investigators. The greatest difficulty arises in connection with His work of redemption in the narrower sense, His atoning sacrifice on Calvary. One writer stated that the statement, "He shall save His people from their sins," means that Christ, by His own efforts, as mere human being, reached the stage of sinlessness, and that we, in following His example, may work out our own salvation. On account of such misunderstandings of the doctrine of the atonement it is necessary for every Christian to study the Bible very carefully, not only to realize the fact of the sinlessness of Jesus, but also the relation of this fact to the work of redemption.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Only one of the passages listed below is from the Old Testament, and even that may be consulted in the Septuagint, if no literal translation is available. The passages ought to be written out and the significant parts underlined.

Luke 1, 35.

1 John 3, 1-3.

John 8, 46.

2 Cor. 5, 21.

Heb. 4, 15.

Heb. 7, 26.27.

John 10, 13.

Hos. 13, 14. (Cp. 1 Cor. 15, 55-57.)

Rom. 6, 10.

Write out the conclusions on the sinlessness of Christ on the basis of these texts and the discussion in class, in one or more sentences and according to some logical arrangement.

We ought to take note here, very definitely, of the apparent discrepancy between Christ's being separate from sinners and yet charged with the guilt of all men.

Guiding Questions.--What distinction, if any, may be made between the sinlessness of Jesus and the holiness of the Son of God? How can we distinguish between the true humanity of Christ and His being free from sin? What proof have we here for the fact that man's sinfulness is not essential to true humanity?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The mystery of the imputation of our guilt to Christ. (Ps. 89; Is. 53.) The reason and the necessity for the death of Christ, in God's plan of redemption.

THE RELATION OF CHRIST TO HIS FATHER.-- That Christ is the true Son of God, born from eternity out of the essence of the Father, we have already learned. However, since the relationship of Christ to God is often not understood properly, it is necessary for every Christian to receive full assurance on this point. Besides, a great many false teachers refuse to accord to Christ more of a relationship to God the Father than that possessed by every believer. The contention is made that every person who follows the example of the perfect Man will gradually reach a state of divinity like that of Christ. For that reason we must consult the Bible, in order to learn the relationship of Christ to God.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- In this section we have most of the passages from the gospel of John, and therefore the original text can be consulted without difficulty, in order to have the proper background for our discussion. The passages should be written out and the significant words and phrases underlined.

Phil. 2, 5-11.

Rom. 1, 4.

Rom. 8, 32.

Gal. 4, 6.

John 1, 1.2.

John 1, 18.

John 5, 19.20.

John 5, 37.

John 6, 44.46.

John 8, 26-28.

Write out the conclusions reached on the basis of the study of these passages in one or more sentences or statements.

We have clearly two relationships to keep in mind, one according to Christ's state of humiliation and one according to His eternal co-equality. This fact should be clearly expressed.

Guiding Questions. -- In what sense may we say that Christ had a beginning? Why is this section properly called an article of faith? How are we to understand that the Man Jesus Christ is in the bosom of the Father?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- God has begotten the Son from eternity. The Son of Mary remained the Son of God after the incarnation. The relation between God the Father and Jesus Christ is an essential relation.

CHAPTER VI.
The Doctrine of the Office of Christ
(Soteriology)

CHRIST'S STATE OF HUMILIATION.-- Just as we find mystery upon mystery in the doctrine of the person of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, so we are overwhelmed by the idea of the atoning work of Christ. And while unbelievers try to find parallel accounts of the person of Christ in the man-made "holy" books of various religions outside of Christianity and, at the most, find in Jesus a martyr of views which were contrary to the ideals of His countrymen, Christians turn to the Word of God to learn about the reasons which caused the Son of God to come to this vale of tears and to lay down His life as a ransom for all.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Again it will be possible for us to consult all the passages listed below, in order to get a literal translation for careful study. The passages are to be written out and the most significant words and phrases underlined.

Phil. 2, 6-8.

Heb. 5, 7.

2 Cor. 5, 16.

Heb. 2, 6-9.

1 Pet. 3, 18.

2 Cor. 8, 9.

Heb. 12, 2.

John 1, 14.

John 17, 5.

Luke 2, 51.52.

The conclusions reached on the basis of careful study of the text and the discussion in class are to be written out in one or more statements or sentences.

We take note here of the individual incidents, stages, or steps in the state of humiliation, in order to understand the climax of the sacrifice on the cross.

Guiding Questions:-- What difference is to be observed between the "likeness of men" and "the form of a servant"? How does the use of the word "flesh" in several of the passages agree with the use of the word in John 3, 6?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The humiliation of Christ did not consist in His becoming a human being. The significance of rays of glory in the midst of Christ's humiliation. The reason for Christ's denying Himself the continual and unlimited use of the divine power communicated to His human nature.

THE INCARNATION OF JESUS.-- Is the whole story of the life of Jesus has been distorted by Modernists, so the attacks of unbelief have centered in particular on the account of the manner in which the Son of God took upon Himself the nature of a true man, And as the miraculous element of His birth is denied, so also the purpose of His becoming incarnate. In the opinion of a great many modern writers and teachers of Jesus Christ, being essentially nothing more than a mere human being, had no particular divine purpose in becoming a man, but merely worked out a way by Himself which made Him the greatest teacher that ever lived. Since we want to know the truth about the miraculous birth of Christ, as well as the purpose of this wonderful birth, we consult the Scripture.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Consult the text of the Authorized Version for the passages listed and compare them with a literal translation. The verses are to be written out and the significant words and phrases underlined.

Luke 1, 35-38.

Is. 7, 14. (Cp. Matt. 1, 23.)

Gal. 4, 4.

Rom. 1, 3.

Heb. 2, 14.15.17.18.

Luke 2, 1-10.

Is. 9, 6.

Gen. 3, 15.

Micah 5, 2.

John 3, 16.

As the conclusions of the individual and the class are reached on the basis of the passages studied and the discussion in class, they are to be written out in one or more statements or sentences.

We keep in mind, in this connection, both the fact of the miraculous incarnation of the Son of God and the purpose of His becoming a true man.

Guiding Questions.-- In what respect is the doctrine of the incarnation of Jesus a "mystery of godliness"? (See 1 Tim. 3, 16.) How can we prove that Christ was a true man, on the basis of His birth by the Virgin Mary? In which one respect did the birth of Christ differ from that of other men?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The perfect agreement between the Messianic prophecies and their fulfillment in the life of Christ (specifically His birth). The place and the time of Christ's birth and the events of history agreeing with the prophecies. Christ in complete lowliness and in the form of a servant, yet without sin.

THE PUBLIC MINISTRY OF JESUS.-- In both the Apostolic and the Nicene Creed the text proceeds directly from the incarnation of Christ to His suffering and death, since these facts are the most important in His atoning work. But our Bible histories devote a good deal of space to the ministry of our Lord, and these facts likewise have a definite bearing on the understanding of His work. Since many of the modern books on the life of Jesus treat His life as that of a mere man, although they also call Him a great Teacher, Christians search the Scriptures for evidence connecting His ministry with the purpose of His whole life.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Again all the passages listed below are from the New Testament, and may therefore be consulted in the original. Literal renderings should be consulted when available, also other versions that throw light on the right understanding of the texts.

Mark 1, 9-11.

Matt. 4, 17.

Luke 4, 21-24.

Matt. 4, 13-16.

Mark 1, 16-18.

Luke 4, 31.32.

Luke 8, 1-3.

Matt. 7, 28.29.

Acts 2, 22.

Acts 10, 38.

Write out the conclusions which are reached on the basis of the passages written out, and present them in logical arrangement, in one or more sentences.

We note here, among other things, the form and content of Christ's preaching, the effect of His preaching upon His audiences, and the significance and purpose of His miracles.

Guiding Questions.-- How does Christ Himself, in John 4, indicate the purpose of His teaching? (See v.26) How do we harmonize Matt. 8, 16. 17. with Is. 53? How did Jesus Himself, on several occasions, summarize the purpose of His coming?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- Christ's use of the Old Testament in His preaching. Specific prophecies which were fulfilled during Christ's public ministry. The Perean ministry of the Savior.

THE SUFFERING, DEATH, AND BURIAL OF CHRIST.-- When one reads certain books and articles on the person and work of Jesus Christ and takes note of some of the statements of appreciation of the Lord, one is apt to conclude that the writer may have the proper conception of Christ's work. But this is true in only a small percentage of such cases, where the authors are men or women who believe in the truth of the Scriptures and accept these truths without question. A consistent Christian must constantly be on the alert, lest he be led astray by misleading accounts of the work of the Savior. We must be guided by what the Bible says, and by that alone.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Since all the passages offered here are again from the New Testament, the matter of writing them out in a literal translation, with constant reference to the best English translations and other versions, will not offer particular difficulties. The most significant words and phrases should be under-scored.

Rom. 8, 32.

1 Pet. 3, 18.

1 Pet. 4, 1.

1 Cor. 2, 8.

Phil. 2, 8.

Acts 20, 28.

Luke 22, 37. (Cp. Is. 53, 12.)

Acts 3, 15.

Matt. 20, 28.

Matt. 27, 58-60.

1 Cor. 15, 4.

Matt. 27, 64-66.

On the basis of textual study and the discussion in class, the conclusions are to be written out, in one or more sentences, and in logical arrangement.

Our conclusions should bring out the fact of Christ's suffering and death, together with the purpose of this work of His divine office, which we shall consider in detail in a later section.

Guiding Questions.-- What proof have we that the suffering of Christ was a true physical suffering? How can we show that the death of Christ was a true separation of body and soul? What significance has the burial of Christ in sacred history?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The Great Passion of Christ was the culmination of a life-time of substitutionary suffering. The body of the Savior, though truly dead on the cross, did not see corruption. The climax of Christ's life was His substitutionary atonement.

CHRIST'S STATE OF EXALTATION.-- Just as little as an unbeliever can understand the humiliation of Christ, so little can he realize what is involved in the state of exaltation. Many deny the resurrection and the ascension of Christ altogether. Their life of Jesus closes with His death and burial. They cannot understand, and do not believe in, the imputation of our guilt to Christ and the idea of His substitutionary death, and therefore it means nothing to them when Christians speak of Christ's being raised for our justification. For this reason believers in the truth of the Bible will consult this one source of absolute truth to find out what we are to believe concerning the exaltation of Christ.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- With the exception of two passages, all the texts listed below are taken from the New Testament. The original text may therefore be consulted in most cases, and a literal translation of the Old Testament passages is available in commentaries or other sources. Write out and underscore as in previous sections.

John 10, 17.18.

Phil. 2, 9-11.

Ps. 110, 1.7.

Eph. 1, 20.

Acts 5, 31.

Ps. 8, 6.7.

Heb. 2, 7-9.

Eph. 4, 10.

Write out the conclusions drawn on the basis of a careful study of each text and the discussion held in class. Two or more sentences will be required.

We note here that the Bible definitely speaks of an exalting of Christ and tells us in what this act of God consisted and what it meant for the Son of Man.

Guiding Questions. -- When Christ was exalted, what became of the essential weaknesses of the human nature which He had assumed? What was the nature of Christ's body after He was made alive in the grave? (Cp. Phil. 3, 21.)

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The significance of the exaltation of Christ is a matter of faith. The meaning of Christ's session at the right hand of God. The domination of the Son of Man over all creatures as a result of His exaltation.

THE DESCENT AND THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST.-- On this topic every Christian must be informed, and must be sure of his ground. For the doctrine of the resurrection of Christ has been assailed by many enemies of the truth, usually with the assertion that its historical truth is not sufficiently established. And with regard to Christ's descent into hell the voice of doubt is heard again and again, even in the midst of the Church, although practically all Christian denominations have accepted the descendit ad inferos, as found in the Apostles' Creed. Just as we believing members of the Lutheran Church accept the truth of this historical account in numerous passages of the Bible, so far as the resurrection of our Lord is concerned, so we receive with the same meekness the statements of the Bible on Christ's descent into hell.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- The passages listed here, all of them from the New Testament, should be consulted both in the English translation and in the original, in order that the exact meaning of the text may be written down. Underline the most important words and phrases.

1 Pet. 3, 18.19.

Phil. 2, 9-11.

Eph. 4, 9.10.

Rom. 1, 3.4.

Rom. 6, 4.9.

Acts 2, 24.

Rom. 8, 24.

Matt. 28, 5.6.

Rom. 4, 25.

1 Cor. 15, 14-18.

Write down the conclusions drawn from the passages studied, also on the basis of the discussion in class, in one or more sentences.

We take note here, in particular, of the fact of Christ's descent and His resurrection, and of the significance of this part of His work in the redemption of mankind.

Guiding Questions.-- What is the full significance of the phrase that Jesus "rose from the dead"? (Cp. John 10, 17.18.) What is the meaning of the phrase that "God raised Him from the dead"?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- A comparison of all passages having "raised" with those having "rose" or "rise". The resurrection of Christ as a guarantee of the sufficiency of His atoning work. The purpose of Christ's descent into hell.

CHRIST'S ASCENSION AND HIS SESSION AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.--

Those who deny the resurrection of Christ will naturally also deny His ascension, since they believe that He is still in the grave. And as for Christ's session at the right hand of God, not only many ordinary Christians, but even such men as hold positions of leadership in the Church have expressed doubts and contradictory opinions. Moreover, a good deal of harm has been done in the midst of the Church by teachers who misunderstood the significance of the exaltation of Christ and insist upon making Christ subject to time and space. Therefore Christian students must examine the Bible very closely, in order to see clearly what the Holy Ghost has revealed concerning these facts.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Again all the passages listed are found in the New Testament, and therefore the original text should be consulted, together with the English translation. The passages are to be written out and the significant words and phrases underscored.

Luke 24, 51.

Acts 1, 11.

Mark 16, 19.

Acts 3, 20. 21.

Eph. 1, 20.

Heb. 1, 3.13. (Cp. Ps. 110, 1.)

1 Pet. 3, 22.

Eph. 1, 23.

Acts 5, 30.31.

Summarize your own conclusions, on the basis of your study of the text and the discussion in class, writing them down in one or more sentences.

We note here the historical data as well as the meaning attached in the Bible to this double act of the exalted Son of Man.

Guiding Questions.-- According to which nature was Jesus exalted to the right hand of God? Where does Jesus, in the gospel of John, speak of these marvelous facts? What is the relation of these steps in Christ's exaltation to His redemptive work?

Suggestions for Term Papers and Projects.-- Christ, also according to His human nature, exercises complete rule over all things. The Church of God is the special domain of the exalted God-man. The presence of the exalted Christ in the midst of His Church.

CHRIST'S COMING TO JUDGMENT.-- This is a subject which is extremely distasteful to most people, just as is the subject of death. Their hearts and minds are engrossed with things of this life, and they know of no greater happiness than that of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Yet their conscience tells them that there is a righteous and just God, who will sooner or later call all men to account. Christians, who place their trust in the redeeming grace of their Savior, will therefore not listen to the voice of seducers among men, but will at all times seek their information on the second coming of the Lord from the Word of God alone.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Consult the passages listed below, also in the original, trying to determine the exact meaning of the Lord's revelation. The passages are to be written out and the significant passages underscored.

Acts 1, 11.

John 5, 22.27.

Matt. 25, 31-46. (The verses that refer to the Second Advent.)

Matt. 24, 42.

Matt. 25, 10.13.

Eph. 1, 20-22.

Luke 21, 27.36.

1 Thess. 4, 14-17.

2 Pet. 3, 10. 12.

Rev. 20. (The significant statements.)

The conclusions drawn from the passages, also on the basis of the discussion in class, are to be written out in one or more statements.

The thoughts which should receive special attention are those of the visible culmination of Christ's exaltation, with His power manifest to all creatures, the final sentence pronounced upon all generations of men, and the result of the judgment.

Guiding Questions.-- What is the sign of the Son of Man? Why is the designation "Son of Man" so frequently used in connection with Christ's return to judgment?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The right understanding of the thousand years in Rev. 20. The destruction of Jerusalem as a type of the destruction of the world. The procedure in the Last Judgment.

CHRIST OUR HIGH PRIEST.-- From the earliest days the searchers of the Scriptures have seen that the Bible speaks of the Savior not only according to His miraculous person, but also with reference to His office. This is apparent even in the Old Testament, in direct statements as well as in types and figures. And the New Testament gives us the full information on these offices, the first of which is usually called His priestly or sacerdotal office. We consult the Bible for information on this office of our Redeemer.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Read these passages in their context and compare with the original or a literal rendering, and write out the texts, underlining the significant words and phrases.

Heb. 4, 14.

1 Tim. 2, 5.

Heb. 7, 24.26.

Heb. 9, 14.15.

Is. 53, 4.7.

Gal. 3, 13.

Rom. 5, 6-8.

1 John 3, 16.

John 6, 51.

Titus 2, 14.

Eph. 5, 2.

2 Cor. 5, 18.19.

Col. 1, 20.

On the basis of the text and the discussion in class write out the conclusions demanded by the inspired account, in one or more sentences.

The thoughts which must be emphasized are those of the name and the office itself, the various functions of the great High Priest, and the purpose of His sacrificial activity.

Guiding Questions.-- What is meant by the phrase: "Himself the Victim and Himself the Priest."? How is the substitutionary character of Christ's work brought out in the various passages? How is the participation of the Father in the work of redemption brought out?

Suggestion for Projects and Term Papers.-- The high priest of the Old Testament as a type of Christ. The active and the passive obedience of Christ in the work of our redemption. Christ as the Sacrifice for our sins.

CHRIST THE PROPHET.-- With regard to this topic even unbelieving writers on the life of Christ have said some correct things, chiefly by way of appreciating His activity as a teacher, and there can be no doubt that even a secular character will derive much benefit from the study of the pedagogy of Jesus. But estimates of His importance as the great Teacher made from this angle only will not do justice to the teaching of the Bible on Christ and His work as our Prophet, for the Biblical conception of Him in this respect goes far beyond any appreciation of Him as a mere Man or model Teacher. Therefore we consult the Bible for the information which we need.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Write out the passages listed below, again in a literal translation giving the exact meaning of the inspired text, and underline the most important words and phrases.

Deut. 18, 18. (Cp. Acts 3, 22.)

Matt. 17, 5.

Matt. 11, 27. (Cp. John 1, 18.)

1 Cor. 1, 30.

Luke 4, 18.

John 10, 25. 38.

John 3, 2.

Acts 1, 8.

John 20, 21-23. (Cp. Matt. 28, 18-20.)

2 Cor. 5, 18. 20.

1 Cor. 4, 1.

Write out the conclusions derived from a complete study of the text and from the discussion in class, in one or more statements, logically arranged.

We note here, as the chief thoughts, the fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecy in Christ, His own position as teacher and foreteller of the future, and His institution of the holy ministry.

Guiding Questions.-- Compare Luke 2, 52 with Col. 2, 3. Where does Jesus appear as a foreteller of the future? What was the effect of Christ's teaching upon the multitude?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers. -- A comparison between Moses and Christ in the prophetic office. Christ as the Revealer of the will of God. The commission of Christ to His apostles.

CHRIST THE KING.-- With regard to this topic also many unbelieving writers have said some interesting things, for a mere perusal of the gospels is bound to make a deep impression on the reader and practically compel him to acknowledge the kingly majesty of the lowly Nazarene. However, a true and adequate appreciation of the kingly office of Christ and of His present and future kingdom is not possible unless one accepts in true faith what the Scriptures reveal concerning Him. Here the fact that Christ is a descendant of David, and therefore of royal lineage, causes the description of Him as King to appear even in the Old Testament, while the New Testament furnishes us with ample evidence concerning the fulfilment of Old Testament type and prophecy.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- All the passages listed should, if possible, be compared with literal translations of the original, then to be written out and the significant phrases underlined.

Ps. 8, 6.7.

Is. 9, 7.

Dan. 7, 14.

John 18, 37.

Rev. 19, 16.

Heb. 2, 7.8.

Eph. 1, 22. 23.

Eph. 5, 23. 24.

John 18, 36.

John 10, 27.

Col. 3, 4.

1 Thess. 2, 12.

Matt. 25, 34.

Rev. 22, 3.4.

The conclusions derived from a careful study of the passages and the discussion in class are to be written out, in one or more sentences in some kind of logical arrangement.

The main thoughts in these passages are those connected with the designation of Christ as our King and the fact pertaining to His threefold kingdom, in their relation to us.

Guiding Questions.-- How does the knowledge of the Messiah as the descendant of David appear in the language of the time of Christ? What is meant by the three kingdoms of Christ? How does the explanation of the Second Article make the application of these truths?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- David and Solomon as types of Christ. The extent of Christ's power in the kingdom of power.

THE ALL-SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST.-- Man, by nature, is hopelessly self-righteous, thinking that it is possible for him to earn his way to heaven by his own good behavior and works. This is true even where a person's common sense and his conscience tell him that it is impossible to pay the guilt of all sins and to make his whole life conform to the demands of a just and holy God. The pride of the heart is equaled only by its stubbornness in refusing to accept the way of salvation as revealed in the Word of God. We constantly have with us the phenomena of Pelagianism and synergism. Hence it is necessary for us to find out the truth concerning man's inability to earn salvation, chiefly by noting the manner in which God's Word emphasizes the all-sufficiency of Christ.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Again all the texts listed below may be consulted also in the original, in order to get every shade of meaning correct. The passages are to be written out and the most important words and phrases underlined.

John 15, 5.

2 Cor. 12, 9.

Phil. 4, 13.

Col. 1, 16 - 18.20.

Eph. 1, 23. 22.

Col. 2, 19.

1 Cor. 15, 25-28.

Col. 2, 10.

Write down the conclusions arrived at by the study of the passages and on the basis of the discussion in class, in one or more sentences, in some logical sequence.

The main thoughts of the texts begin with the position held by Christ with regard to the Christians, together with His influence upon their faith and life, always on the basis of His all-sufficiency.

Guiding Questions.-- To whom alone will the facts here presented apply? How is the relation spoken of in these texts established? What is meant by the fulness of Christ in us?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The objective side of the mystical union. The extent of the power granted by virtue of the mystical union. The human body of Christ as the vessel of full divine wisdom.

CHAPTER VII
The Doctrine of the Holy Ghost and His Work
(Pneumatology)

THE PERSON OF THE HOLY GHOST.-- In all the doctrines which are usually connected with the Third Article we are dealing with mysteries which far transcend human knowledge. The very idea of the Holy Ghost as true God is beyond human ken. It is true that in religions as low as animism the believers concerned invest imaginary spirits with supernatural powers and that the belief in demons is a characteristic of many heathen superstitions. But the concept of the Holy Ghost as a person of the Godhead, Himself true God, is foreign to natural man's thinking. Hence we are again compelled, in our search for the truth on this subject, to turn to the Bible for accurate and adequate information.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Since we have a number of passages from the Old Testament here, literal translations may be obtained from commentaries, or the Septuagint will be of assistance in determining the exact meaning. For the New Testament passages the original should by all means be consulted. Write them out and underscore the important words and phrases.

2 Sam. 23, 2.

Job 33, 4. (Cp. Gen. 1, 2; Ps. 33, 6.)

John 14, 26.

John 15, 26.

Gal. 4, 6.

Rom. 8, 9. (Cp. 1 Pet. 1, 11.)

Acts 5, 3.4.

1 Cor. 3, 16.

Ps. 139, 7.8.

1 Cor. 2, 10.11.

1 Pet. 4, 14.

The conclusions arrived at on the basis of textual study and the discussion in class should be written down, in a series of statements, in a logical arrangement.

We should take note here of the fact that the Holy Ghost is spoken of as a separate person, that He is associated with both the first and the second person of the Godhead, and that divine attributes are ascribed to Him.

Guiding Questions.-- How may we refute the claim that the word "Spirit" means the breath of God only? How is the equality of the Spirit with the other persons of the Godhead brought out?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The procession of the Holy Spirit from the Father and the Son. The omnipresence of the Holy Ghost. The omniscience of the Holy Ghost.

THE MEANS OF GRACE, THE GOSPEL, AND THE SACRAMENTS.-- All living religions have sacred books of some kind, in which there are stories or accounts of the supernatural beings in which the adherents of these religions believe. Some of these books have much to say about morality and the manner in which men may satisfy the demands of the deity. A few even go so far as to present, on the basis of the natural knowledge of God, some attributes of the supernatural being or beings which are also revealed, in the right sense, of the one true God. But none of these other books give information on the manner in which the just and righteous God was reconciled to a world of human beings who had become estranged from Him by their own wilful and wicked choice. The doctrine of the means of grace is, therefore, peculiar to the Bible, and we must turn to its pages to find out the truth concerning the Gospel and the Sacraments.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- We could well select some passages on the Word of God as a means of grace also from the Old Testament. But those here offered, being from the New Testament alone, may be consulted not only in English, but also in the original tongue. Literal translations should then be written out, and the significant words and phrases underscored.

Mark 16, 15.

Rom. 1, 16.

Gal. 1, 11.12.

1 Pet. 1, 25.

Mark 1, 15.

John 3, 5.

Matt. 28, 19.

Acts 8, 35-38.

1 Cor. 11, 23-25.

Matt. 26, 26-28.

Mark 14, 22-24.

Luke 22, 19.20.

1 Cor. 10, 16.

The conclusions, in at least three sentences, are to be written out on the basis of the texts and the discussion in class, in the order which immediately suggests itself.

We should mark here that the means of grace are not mere outward notices and forms suggesting worship, but that they actually convey the assurance of grace to the hearts of men.

Guiding Questions.-- What proof have we that the Gospel actually works faith? Why are the Sacraments no mere symbols of remembrance?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The sacraments of the Old Testament. The baptism of John. A harmony of the four accounts of the institution of the Lord's Supper.

THE CALL OF THE GOSPEL.-- To those who deny the inspiration, the divinity of the Bible, its various books and parts have an interest only in the proportion and to the extent that the reader personally feels that the writer concerned has put things in a convincing way. In other words, people who take this attitude take the Bible like any other book which is human only. But the significant thing is this, that thousands of men and women have felt the power, the efficacy of the Word of God, the Gospel, and have turned from darkness to light, from the service of unrighteousness to the ministry of that which is good. From this angle all believers look at the Bible, and from this background we examine the Bible to find out what it says about the call of the Gospel.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- With the exception of one passage, all the texts here listed are taken from the New Testament, and therefore, the original tongue should be consulted before writing down the verses and underscoring the most significant words and phrases.

2 Tim. 1, 9.

2 Thess. 2, 14.

Luke 14, 17.

Is. 55, 1.

Acts 2, 38. 41.

1 Cor. 1, 9.

Col. 1, 13.14.

Eph. 1, 18.

1 Tim. 6, 12.

Rom. 1, 16.

Again the conclusions drawn from the study of the texts and the discussion in class should be written out in one or more statements, logically arranged.

We must note here that the vocation of the Gospel is an act of the gracious and merciful God, that He thereby offers to sinful men the blessings of Christ's vicarious satisfaction, and He wants the believers to enjoy these benefits.

Guiding Questions.-- What evidence have we that the call of God is seriously meant? What is meant by the "hope" of His calling? What is the end or purpose of God's call?

Suggestions for Projects or Term Papers.-- Proofs for the divine power inherent in the Gospel. The obstinate resistance offered to the divine call by the majority of men. The essential truth effective in the Gospel is that of the atonement through the blood of Christ.

REGENERATION, OR CONVERSION.-- The call of God in the Gospel is efficacious; by the merciful power of God it actually effects what He wants it to accomplish. This fact can be grasped by faith only, and is not a matter of man's reason. The same holds true, however, of all the topics in the present chapter. Some men think that they can convert themselves, that they, by the application of their will power, can abstain from certain sins which they have learned to detest on account of their evil and shameful effects. There is no doubt that this is possible, in the case of certain men and certain sins. But this change is not the one that is referred to in our present topic. Setting aside, therefore, all human considerations, we approach our subject from the standpoint of the Bible only.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- All the texts listed here should be consulted, not only in the English translation, but in the original as well, so that a literal rendering of every passage may be written out and the most important words and phrases underscored.

Titus 3, 5.

1 Pet. 1, 3.

John 1, 13.

1 John 3, 9.

2 Cor. 5, 16.

Eph. 5, 8.

Eph. 2, 1.5.

Jer. 31, 18. (Consult in the Septuagint, if no literal translation is available.)

1 Pet. 2, 10.

Acts 26, 18.

Acts 26, 20.

Write out the conclusions drawn on the basis of these texts, after the discussion in class, and present them in one or more sentences.

Although there are two terms at the head of this topic, we shall find that they describe the same process in the heart of man, and the results will show in a converted person's life.

Guiding Questions.-- What fact is brought out in the "washing" of regeneration? How is the idea of a new birth brought out in the texts? What is the necessary result and effect of conversion?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The terms "light" and "life" in the doctrine of conversion. The enjoyment of the salvation in Christ as the fruit of regeneration.

SAVING FAITH.-- The word "faith" is another one of the concepts which are so frequently misunderstood and abused by men, either from ignorance or from malice. In the language of the Modernist faith means no more than a strong reliance and confidence in the leadership of Jesus, Himself the perfect Man. Such strange notions are inevitable where the knowledge of sin and grace is no longer to be found. Christians who believe in the atoning work of Jesus Christ are under obligations constantly to study the Word of God, in order to know what this infallible Source of Wisdom teaches about saving faith and its meaning in the life of the children of God.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- Although the Old Testament also gives us full information on the essence of saving faith, all the passages here listed are taken from the New Testament, also for the sake of facilitating the reference to the original. The passages are to be written out, preferable according to a literal translation, and the important words underlined.

John 1, 12.13.

John 6, 29.

Col. 2, 12.

1 Pet. 1, 21.

Heb. 12, 2.

John 14, 6.

Rom. 10, 17.

Acts 10, 43.

Luke 1, 77.

John 17, 3.

2 Pet. 1, 3.

Jas. 1, 21.

2 Tim. 1, 12.

Eph. 3, 12.

Write out the conclusions derived at from the study of the text, in one or more sentences.

We take note here of the origin or source of faith, of the object of faith, and of its power in the lives of the believers.

Guiding Questions.-- Whence alone comes the power to believe in Jesus Christ? By what means is faith wrought in the heart? What is the object of saving faith?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- Faith, wrought by God alone, an activity of man. Personal faith essentially the application

JUSTIFICATION.-- The question of Bildad: "How then can man be justified with God?" Job 25, 4, is the inquiry of every heart that realizes its sinfulness and the condemnation of a just God upon this condition. The answer given by all man-made religions, also within the outward Christian Church, is this that every person must, by some attitude, by some works, by some sacrifices, placate and reconcile God or the deity, and thus merit the good will of God by his own efforts. This answer should be studied very carefully in the light of the Word of God, for our own knowledge of this topic must be derived from the Word of God alone.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- With the exception of one passage all the texts listed here are taken from the New Testament. They are to be written down, preferably in a literal translation, and the important words and phrases underlined.

Is. 38, 17.

Ps. 32, 1.2.

Luke 18, 14.

Acts 18, 39.

Rom. 5, 1.

1 Cor. 6, 11.

Rom. 5, 16.18.19.

Luke 24, 7.

Gal. 2, 16.

1 Tim. 3, 16.

The conclusions, as drawn from the study of the passages and the discussion in class, are to be written out in one or more sentences, in a logical sequence.

We distinguish between general or objective justification and individual or subjective justification. The latter means the application of the merits of Christ in the Gospel to the individual.

Guiding Questions.-- How can we prove that the sacrifice of Christ is intended for all men? What is meant by the imputation of the merits of Christ? Why must we reject the Roman doctrine of infused grace?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The doctrine of justification versus self-righteousness. The apparent discrepancy between God's holiness, righteousness, and justice, on the one hand, and His grace and mercy, on the other. The consequences of justification.

THE ACTIVITY OF FAITH IN SANCTIFICATION.-- The faith of the Modernist is essentially self-righteous. The more trust or confidence he has in the leader whom he has chosen for himself, and the greater his reliance upon himself grows, the more he believes himself to possess and to exercise faith. On the other hand, many people who hold outward membership in the Church are satisfied with the mere knowledge of the facts of salvation. Since they have received the information concerning the redemption wrought by Christ as true, they regard the mere possession of this information as adequate for their relation to salvation. Such views should be examined very closely by the consistent Christian, whose knowledge is derived from the sum total of the truth revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- On account of the importance of our present topic in the present status of our church life, it is imperative that the passages listed be written out, with constant reference to the original. The important words and phrases should then be underscored.

Eph. 4, 22-24. (Cp. Col. 3, 10.)

2 Cor. 7, 11.

Gal. 5, 6.

Col. 1, 29.

1 Cor. 1, 30.

1 Thess. 4, 3.

1 Pet. 1, 15.

1 Thess. 5, 23.

John 17, 17.

Rom. 12, 1.

Eph. 2, 10.

Phil. 4, 13.

The conclusions reached by the study of the passages and the discussion in class should be written out, in one or more sentences, according to a logical plan.

We note here that the renewal wrought by the Spirit through the Word produces an activity on the part of the believer, always, however, under the direction of God in the Word and in agreement with His holy will.

Guiding Questions.-- How does God emphasize the activity of the believer in the life of sanctification? How is the working of God's dynamic brought out in some of our texts?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The essential inner relationship between faith and sanctification. Growth in sanctification as a condition of the full Christian life.

THE BELIEVER'S LIFE IN GOOD WORKS.-- The importance of this topic will be evident on the basis of the following considerations. All the good works of heathen are a vain service, because they do not flow from the love of Christ, and their civic righteousness will be rewarded only in this world. Whatever men do without the motivation of the love of Christ flowing from true faith, has no value in the sight of God. And as for the works of members of the outward Church, all those which are based upon the commandments of men are vain and foolish. The true Christian, who tries to have his whole life conform to the will of his heavenly Father and his Savior, makes a careful study of the Word of God, in order to have the basis of the absolute truth to guide him in his appreciation of good works. Once more our question is: What does the Bible say?

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- All the passages here listed should be consulted also in the original, in order that the literal translation may be compared and written out, with the most important words and phrases underlined.

Eph. 2, 10.

1 Cor. 1, 5.

Eph. 4, 13.14.

Heb. 5, 12-14.

Phil. 2, 13.

Matt. 7, 17.18.

Rom. 6, 12.13.

Col. 1, 10.

Titus 2, 14.

1 Thess. 4, 3.

John 15, 10. (Cp. John 14, 15; 1 John 2, 3.4.)

Rom. 3, 9.10.

1 John 2, 6.

Write out the conclusions, as usually, in one or more sentences, arranging the points in a logical order.

We note that these passages speak of a laying aside of evil works as well as of progressive sanctification. The mode and the expression of sanctification are also brought out.

Guiding Questions.-- What is the difference between good works and a mere outward morality? Why are self-chosen works condemned in Scripture? In what sense are good works necessary?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The restoration of the image of God in the believer. The will of God the only norm of good works. Progressive sanctification.

THE ELECTION OF GRACE.-- This doctrine, also known as the doctrine of predestination, has been one of the factors which divided Protestantism these four hundred years. Although it does not belong to the most necessary doctrines of salvation, it is clearly revealed in the Bible. The French-Swiss reformer Calvin, while teaching correctly concerning the redemption of mankind through the atoning work of Christ, confined the effect and the blessing of this work to the elect, since, as he taught, those who had not been elected by God to eternal life, were, as a logical consequence, predestinated to eternal damnation. Since human reason has a tendency to stumble at this doctrine, believing Christians must turn to the Word of God as the only source of doctrine.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- There are several major passages in the New Testament, and a much larger number of minor or incidental texts which treat of this doctrine. The passages listed here are to be compared with the original, especially for the sake of determining the exact meaning of the verbs describing the activity of God in the election of grace. Underline the most important words and phrases in the texts.

Eph. 1, 3-14. (Select only the phrases that speak of election.)

Rom. 8, 28.30.

2 Tim. 1, 9.

Acts 13, 48.

Rom. 9, 11.

1 Pet. 1, 2.

2 Tim. 2, 10.

Matt. 20, 16.

John 13, 18.

Rom. 11, 5.7.

Write out your conclusions, on the basis of the study of the passages and the discussion in class, using some kind of logical sequence.

We note that election is a decree of God, according to which He selected men unto eternal life and carried out in and on them the purposes which were connected with His predestination.

Guiding Questions.-- What is the only basis of the believer's election? What is the difference between the doctrine of universal grace and that of the election of grace? What steps or results follow the election of grace?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- Foreknowledge and foreordination in the election of grace. The election of grace not arbitrary or absolute, but in Christ Jesus. The total absence of man's attitudes or merits in the election of grace.

CHAPTER VIII
The Three States Established by God
(Ecclesiology)

THE INVISIBLE CHURCH. - The doctrine of the Church has been a stumbling block in Christendom from the beginning, and particularly since the hierarchy was established which ruled the Church for many centuries, and still does, in some denominations. At the present time the Roman Church declares that the Church is the visible organization of those who bow to the authority of the pope. The Greek Catholic Church declares, in a similar vein, that the Church is a visible organization, held together by the orthodox faith and the seven sacraments. And so we have other religious societies which have adopted some definition of their own concerning the meaning of the word or term "Church". It is all the more necessary, therefore, that every true believer consult the Bible, in order to find out what is there stated concerning the nature and the functions of the Church.

The Most Important and Significant Passages. - The passages here listed, all of them from the New Testament, are to be written out in a literal translation, by referring to the original and other reliable renderings into modern languages, and the important words and phrases are to be underlined.

Eph. 2, 19-22.

Eph. 5, 25-27.

1 Pet. 2, 9.

John 10, 26-27.

2 Tim. 2, 19

Luke 17, 20-21.

1 Cor. 12, 13.

Rom. 12, 4. 5. 12.

Rev. 5, 9-10.

2 Cor. 6, 16.

1 Tim. 3, 15.

Write out the conclusions arrived at, on the basis of a careful study of the text and the discussion in class, following some logical sequence.

We note here that the Church includes all believers, that it is the spiritual body of Christ and the temple of God, of which Jesus Christ is the one foundation.

Guiding Questions. - What is the significance of the expression "the holy Catholic Church"? What does the picture of the body of Christ suggest with regard to the individual members?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers. - Christ as the only Head of the Church. Christ as the Foundation and Corner-stone of the Church. Conditions for membership in the invisible Church.

"VISIBLE" CHURCHES. - The confusion concerning the so-called "visible" churches is just as great as the uncertainty regarding the Church in the true and primary sense of the term. Some denominations and church bodies teach that the "visible" churches consist of nothing but saints and that hypocrites and ungodly people are not mingled with the true Christians. In some quarters there is no clearness as to the marks which distinguish "Christian" churches from anti-Christian bodies. Some men do not distinguish clearly between churches, as corporate bodies, and organizations whose members profess the Christian faith, or a part of it, without any particular administration. But with regard to this doctrine also the Bible speaks quite clearly and adequately, and true believers will always turn to this one source of absolute truth.

The Most Important and Significant Passages. - Following our usual custom, we endeavor to find a literal translation of all the passages here listed. The important words and phrases should then be underlined.

Matt. 13, 47-48.

Matt. 22, 2. 11

Gal. 1, 2. (Cf. the salutation in the various letters of Paul).

Matt. 18, 17.

3 John 9. 10.

Rev. 3, 13-18.

Is. 55, 10. 11.

Luke 8, 11-15.

John 8, 31-32.

Matt. 28, 20.

Acts 2, 42.

Write out the conclusions drawn, on the basis of the study of these passages and the discussion in class, in one or more sentences, logically arranged.

We are dealing here with the tropical sense of the word "church", and our conclusions will take this fact into account.

Guiding questions. - What do we mean by "marks of the Church"? In what respect may prayer and the outward form of worship be regarded as a mark of the Church? What about the membership of hypocrites in the true, invisible Church?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers. - The prevailing confusion regarding the invisible Church and the "visible" churches. The relation between "visible" churches and the invisible Church. The meaning of the term "orthodox Church".

THE SPIRITUAL PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVERS. - Most heathen religions have their priestly caste, men who are the teachers of religion, have charge of whatever sacrifices are made by the faithful, and otherwise act as intermediaries between the deity and the worshipers or devotees on earth. In some countries as, for instance, in Egypt of old, the priestly caste wielded a tremendous influence, also in the political affairs of the country. In a theocratic state, like that of the kingdom of Judah from the time of Moses to the fall of Jerusalem in 587 B.C., the priests are regarded as the virtual representatives of God, whose decrees could, for that reason, not be set aside. But what is the situation in the Church of Jesus Christ in the New Testament? Do we still have a hierarchy by divine right? Have priests or any other church officials a right, by virtue of their office, to lord it over the people? We consult the Scriptures, in order to find out what God has revealed.

The Most Important and Significant Passages. - The passages here listed are to be written out, in a literal translation, and the most significant words and phrases underscored. For the correct understanding of the text it may also be advisable to consult other versions.

Ex. 19, 5-6.

1 Pet. 2, 9-10.

Titus 2, 14.

Matt. 18, 15-18.

John 20, 22-23.

1 Cor. 1, 2.

Mark 16, 15-16.

Acts 8, 1.

Acts 11, 19-20.

Rev. 1, 6.

The passages are arranged according to a certain order, but the chief thoughts may be given in a different sequence and the conclusions put down in one or more sentences.

We note here that the individual believers are designated as priests, that they have been endowed with certain spiritual rights, privileges, and powers, and that these are to be exercised in accordance with God's will.

Guiding Questions. - How was the fact that Israel was to be a kingdom of priests brought out in their ritual? What is the relation of the Great Commission to the spiritual priesthood of all believers?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers. - The spiritual priesthood and the Christian congregation. The Christian congregation the only society established by the Word of God. The duties of the individual Christian in his immediate environment.

THE MINISTERIAL OFFICE.- As we have seen, all Christians are called priests before God and the Father, through the merits of Jesus Christ applied to them. From this fact some enthusiasts have falsely drawn the conclusion that every Christian also has the right to exercise the duties of preaching in a public or representative capacity, in the midst of the Christian congregation. Some churches have no ministers or preachers, but permit any person, man or woman, to speak as the Spirit moves him or her. In other church bodies we find an arrangement according to which pastors are hired or engaged for a stated period, their transfer being arranged by an assembly or representative men. Such views seriously affect the ideas which people have concerning the ministerial office. Our information on this important subject must be gained from the Bible alone.

The Most Important and Significant Passages. - Since we are dealing with an office of the New Testament, all the passages here listed are taken from the New Testament, and therefore the translation of the Authorized Version should be compared with the original, in order to write out the texts, with the significant words and phrases underlined.

Rom. 10, 15.

2 Cor. 5, 18.

Eph. 4, 11.

Acts 20, 28.

1 Pet. 5, 2.

1 Tim. 3, 5.

1 Cor. 4, 1.

Acts 6, 1-6.

Acts 14, 23.

2 Cor. 4, 5.

1 Tim. 3, 2-7 and Titus 1, 6-9. (Qualifications of ministers).

1 Cor. 12, 5. 29.

Write out the conclusions arrived at through the study of the texts and the discussion in class, in one or more sentences.

We note here that the Bible definitely speaks about the institution of a special office, whose incumbents are expected to have definite qualifications.

Guiding Questions. - In what respect is the ministry representative? What is the difference between an immediate and a mediate call? Which are the chief qualifications of ministers of the Gospel?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers. - The ministerial office does not originate with the general priesthood of believers. The ministry not an estate, but an office of service. Ordination

THE CHURCH MILITANT. - Just as there are a great many men who do not possess the right knowledge concerning the essence of the Church, since they do not understand or do not accept the simple statements of Scripture, so a large number in Christendom are not clear in their teaching concerning the nature of the Church and its work in the world. Some hold that the Church must stand altogether apart from the world (misunderstanding John 17, 16); others that the Church will finally win an outward, temporal victory over the world, so that Christ will, in the end, reign visible over all creatures, in the so-called millennium. All such views must be examined in the light of the Word of God, for believers turn to the Bible for their information also on this subject.

The Most Important and Significant Passages. - According to our custom we write out the passages listed below, after comparing them with a literal translation from the Greek original. The significant words and phrases are to be underlined.

Eph. 4, 11-12.

1 Cor. 9, 19-22.

1 Tim. 4, 16.

1 Cor. 1, 21.

Eph. 6, 10-11.

1 Pet. 5, 8-9.

1 John 5, 4.

John 15, 19-20.

John 16, 33.

2 Cor. 10, 3-5.

Heb. 13, 14.

Matt. 24, 11-14.

Write down the conclusions drawn on the basis of the textual study and the discussion in class, in a series of sentences.

We note here that the Church, as long as this world stands, has a definite function to perform, namely to gain men by the preaching of the gospel and to battle against the ancient foes of mankind.

Guiding Questions. - Explain the various parts of a Christian's armor against the spiritual enemies. By what means alone can Christians withstand the devil? What kinds of persecutions must a Christian expect?

Topics for Projects and Term Papers. - Chiliams and its fallacies. The need of aggressiveness in church work.

THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT. - From what we have learned, in the last section, the Church will not enjoy an era of victory and tranquillity just before the Last Judgment, but will continue in its state of warfare against its implacable foes to the end. Every one who is in the kingdom of grace is, by virtue of that fact, a soldier in the army of Jesus Christ, even though Christ has overcome the world, and has abolished death. We live by faith, not by sight; we have the possessions of the heavenly glories, but only their partial enjoyment. But what about the future beyond the grave and the Last Day, to which reference has already been made in a previous section? On this question also we do not indulge in idle dreams, but turn to the Word of God for our information.

The Most Important and Significant Passages. - The passages from the New Testament, here listed, should be looked up in the original for the sake of an exact translation, while a literal translation of the Old Testament passages should by all means be compared. The texts should be written out and the significant words and phrases underlined.

2 Tim. 4, 7-8.

1 Pet. 1, 4.

1 John 2, 25.

Matt. 5, 8.

2 Tim. 2, 10.

1 Pet. 5, 10.

Ps. 16, 11.

Is. 35, 10.

1 Cor. 13, 10. 12.

Rev. 21, 1-4.

Write out the conclusions drawn on the basis of a careful study of the text and the discussion in class, in a series of statements giving the main points in a logical arrangement.

We note here the description of heaven as such and also the fact that the Church Triumphant, as the Bride of the Lamb, is pictured as enjoying the joys unspeakable of the heavenly bliss.

Guiding questions. - What is the essential difference between the Church Militant and the Church Triumphant? What distinction may we make between the Church Triumphant and the Kingdom of Glory?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers. - The heavenly Jerusalem as the final home of the Church. The function of the Church in the Kingdom of glory.

THE FAMILY AND THE HOME. - From all over the country comes the cry concerning the disintegration of the American home. Pastors complain that young people are disinclined to take upon themselves the responsibilities of establishing a home and a family, that children, in particular, are considered a nuisance. Social workers, especially family welfare workers, bring reports on conditions in the homes of our country which seem to show that there is little appreciation of the divine institution of holy wedlock and the blessings which God laid upon this estate. Adultery and fornication are practised to an extent that earnest citizens, who are concerned about the welfare of the nation, are seeking ways and means to combat the growing wickedness against the Sixth Commandment. Christians are therefore under obligation, more than ever, to study the word of God for the proper indormation on marriage and the home.

The Most Important and Significant Passages. - The passages listed here are to be written out, preferably after a comparison of the English text with a literal translation from the original, and the most important words and phrases underscored.

Gen. 2, 24.

Matt. 19, 4-6.

Eph. 5, 31.

Gen. 1, 28.

Rom. 7, 2.

1 Cor. 7, 39.

Eph. 5, 28-29.

1 Pet. 3, 5-7.

1 Cor. 7, 2-5.

1 Tim. 5, 8.

Ps. 127, 4-5.

Ps. 128, 2-3.

Write out the conclusions drawn from the study of these texts and the discussion in class, in a series of statements, logically arranged.

We note here the divine establishment of marriage, its duties and obligations, and the divine blessings upon this estate.

Guiding Questions. - How are we to regard the accounts of evolutionists on the origin of marriage? How are we to look upon polygamy? What about the arbitrary birth control practised in our days?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers. - The proper way of entering the holy estate of matrimony. The duties of a husband to his wife. The duties of a wife to her husband.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT. - Just as the divine teaching concerning the home and the family have been perverted or completely set aside in our days, so also that regarding the government and the state. The theory of evolution, though in reality superseded by other man-made theories concerning the origins of things on the earth, has so entirely permeated the modern world that people everywhere tend to discard the creation and the providence of God, and therefore also His guidance in the government and affairs of men. We have with us today the extreme forms of socialism and communism, and Christians are under obligations to study these and other social phenomena closely, in order to have a clear picture of the doctrine taught by the Word of God concerning civil government. The Bible, as the only book of absolute truth, in our source of information also on the fundamentals of the government and the state.

The Most Important and Significant Passages. - Although some of the texts here given are from the Old Testament, a literal translation of all the passages should be made available, in order that the divine truth may be appreciated, as nearly as possible, in its full significance. Write out the passages and underline the chief points.

Prov. 8, 15.

Dan. 2, 21.

Rom. 13, 1-7.

John 19, 11.

1 Pet. 2, 13-14.

Titus 3, 1.

On the basis of a careful study of these passages and the discussion in class conclusions are to be drawn, to be presented in one or more sentences, logically arranged.

We note here that civil government is a divine institution, receiving its authority from God, and having certain definite functions with regard to the citizens of a country or state.

Guiding Questions. - Which forms of government do we distinguish? Why are the passages in Romans and in 1 Peter especially significant? What one exception does God Himself make with regard to the obedience which we owe to our government?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers. - The separation of Church and State. Present forms of Caesaropapism. Jesus as a subject of Rome.

CHAPTER IX

The Doctrine of the Last Things (Eschatology)

TEMPORAL DEATH. - As unbelievers and false believers have distorted or disregarded practically all other truths as revealed by God in His holy Word, they have also proposed their own ideas with regard to death. Thousands of people assert, in our days, that death is annihilation, that men die like beasts or the vegetation which springs up and decays, in a regular cycle. But what does the Word of God say?

The Most Important and Significant Passages. - While a few of the passages below are taken from the Old Testament, the majority is from the New Testament. All of them should be compared with the original, in a literal translation, and then written out, with the most significant words and phrases underscored.

2 Tim. 4, 6.

Phil. 1, 23.

2 Cor. 5, 1. 4. 8.

Luke 15, 20

Matt. 10, 28.

Rom. 8, 11

1 Cor. 15, 35.

Rom. 5, 12. 17. 21.

Rom. 6, 23.

Prov. 11, 7.

Luke 2, 29.

Rev. 14, 13.

Eccl. 12, 7.

1 Cor. 15, 51.

Write out the conclusions, as usually, taking note of the clear statements regarding the fact and the meaning of death, the cause of death, and other significant facts.

Guiding Questions. - How are we to explain the "pessimistic" statements Eccl. 3, 19-21? What is the meaning of death, in the case of the unbelievers? Which essential feature of death is absent in the case of believers?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers. - Corruption and decay as the result of death. Burial and cremation. The physical changes of those living on the Last Day.

SIGNS OF THE LAST TIMES.-- To realize the importance of this topic we have but to think of the scoffing questions which St. Peter quotes in his Second Epistle, as coming from the mouths of unbelievers: "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." Chap. 3,4. The reply which the apostle makes is based upon history and reason, and is just as appropriate to-day as it was then. It would frequently seem that scoffers try to bolster up their courage with arguments of this type, like a little boy whistling in the dark, because their conscience bothers them. Christians get their information of the topic above from the Bible.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.--The passages listed here are all taken from the New Testament, and therefore they should all be compared with the original text. A literal translation of the passages is to be written out and the important words and phrases underlined.

Matt. 26, 64. (Cp. Matt. 26, 31; 24, 30; Mark 13, 26)

Acts 1, 11.

1 Thess. 4, 16.

1 Cor. 1, 7.

Titus 2, 13.

Luke 21, 37.

Matt. 13, 32.

2 Peter 3, 12.

Phil. 3, 20.

Write out the conclusions based on a careful study of these texts and the discussion in class, in a series of statements.

We note here that the second advent of the Savior is definitely predicted, with certain specific signs which are to give evidence of His return, and the meaning of these signs for the believers.

Guiding Questions.--Where are the eschatological passages of our Lord found? What is the relation between the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the world? What do we mean by "constant readiness"?

Suggestions for projects and Term Papers. The most impressive sign preceding the coming of the Lord. The signs of the Lord's second coming in the powers of nature. The false doctrine of a visible kingdom of Christ here on earth before Judgment Day.

THE ANTICHRIST.—This topic is naturally not treated in circles outside of the Christian Church, since outsiders would hardly have occasion to be concerned about a phenomenon which would have its inception within the Church. And as for the Church: If there is disagreement about other doctrines, there is actual confusion concerning this doctrine. This is partly due to the fact that the passages which come into consideration here are prophetic in part, and the Lord has not directly revealed the fulfilment of the individual parts of His prophecy in an inspired book. But the Lutheran Confessions speak with great definiteness of the fulfilment of the various prophecies in one particular phenomenon. At this time we desire to understand the Biblical basis for the doctrine.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.—We are obliged, at this point, to consult at least one Old Testament passage, which should therefore be compared in a literal translation. The other passages are from the New Testament, and should be consulted in the original. They are all to be written out and the most important words and phrases underlined.

Mark 13, 22. (Co. Matt. 24, 24)

Dan. 11, 36-45. (Note only the pertinent points.)

1 John 2, 18.

1 Tim. 4, 1.

2 Thess. 2, 3. 4. 8-11.

Rev. 17 and 18. (Pick out the main points.)

In connection with this topic it will be necessary to consult history also. But the conclusions which must be drawn on the basis of an objective study of the passages and the discussion in class should be written out in a series of sentences, in logical order.

We note here that the Bible distinguishes between the host of false teachers who will disturb the Church at the end of time and the one great Antichrist who would subvert the very foundations of Christian faith. The chief characteristics of Antichrist are clearly set forth.

Guiding Questions.—Which sections of the passage in Daniel agree closely with the passages in Revelation? Why are hostile movements from without ruled out by 2 Thessalonians?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.—Antichrist not an individual, but a representative person. The first defeat and the final overthrow of Antichrist.

THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD.-- A great many unbelievers, especially such as have cauterized their own conscience(1 Tim.4,1),so that they refuse to be guided by what even their own reason is bound to acknowledge,insist that death is the end of all, that it means annihilation. There is even a church organization that expects to be regarded as Christian,which holds this view as its own official tenet. It is but natural that people who have embraced such notions look upon the matters of this life as the end and aim of their existence. For these and other reasons we find such a great amount of present-wprldliness all about us,with every one anxious to gain all possible advantages out of this life. This may explain the fact that the lust of the flesh,the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life govern the actions of so many people. Over against this attitude Christians will at all times be governed,also in questions pertaining to the end of life and the end of the world,by the truth of the Bible.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.--The texts listed here are to be studied,not only in the English translations, but also according to a literal rendering. This should be written out,and the most important and pertinent words and phrases underscored.

1 Thess.4,16.

1 Cor.15,52.

John 5,21.

John 6,40.

John 5,28.29.

Acts 24,15.

Rom.8,11.

Phil.3,21.

1 Cor.15,44.53.

Dan.12,1.2.

Rev.7,16.

Write out the conclusions based on the study of these passages and the discussion in class,arranging the statements in some logical order.

We note here that the resurrection of the bodies,both of the believers and the unbelievers, is definitely taught in the Holy Scriptures, and that the holy writers speak of a change which is to take place in the bodies.

Guiding Questions.--When will the resurrection take place? Wherein does the miracle of the resurrection consist? What is meant by the "change" in the bodies still alive on Judgment Day?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.--The Holy Trinity active in the final resurrection. Christ's miracles of resurrections. Some difficult questions connected with the miracle of the resurrection.

THE FINAL JUDGMENT.---The Universalists, together with the Annihilationists of every type, who deny the resurrection of the body, deny also any further life or activity after death. They are most vehement in their denial of an accounting on the part of men, after they have once become subject to death. Although the conscience of man is bound to acknowledge the fact of a holy and righteous God, and therefore also of a retribution which is bound to strike the transgressors of God's holy law, unbelievers of all types refuse to heed the voice of conscience. Since we Christians are surrounded by unbelievers, who try to reach us through every medium of communication, we must make it a practice to search the Scriptures on all questions, also of this kind, in order to have our faith rest on God's immutable word.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.---All the texts here listed are again taken from the New Testament alone. The English translation should therefore be compared carefully with the original, so that a literal rendering of the texts may be written out, and the most important words and phrases underlined.

1 Thess. 4, 15, 17.

Matt. 25, 31-46. (The pertinent points.)

Acts 17, 31.

John 5, 22.

Mark 16, 16.

Rom. 2, 5, 16.

2 Cor. 5, 10.

1 John 2, 28.

John 3, 36.

The conclusions drawn, on the basis of the study of the text and the discussion in class, are to be written out, in one or more statements, and in some logical arrangement.

We note here the time when the Last Judgment is to take place and what the attendant circumstances will be, also on what basis the final judgment will be made.

Guiding Questions.---Why do we call it the "final" judgment? On what basis will the judgment take place? Through whom will the final sentence be pronounced?

Suggestions for projects and Term Papers.---The order of events on Judgment Day. The preparation of the believers for the Last Day.

THE END OF THE WORLD.-- That this world will some time come to an end is generally conceded even by unbelievers. In fact, some of our great writers have given rein to their imagination, in order to picture just what the effect of some great light body's nearing our world will be, namely that it will be turned into a cinder or otherwise lose its life and thus become a dead body whirling in space. Whenever a great comet comes near enough to the earth to be visible, the effect upon men is that of filling them with fear of the end of the world. Christians are guided in their thinking, not by the strong imagination of unbelieving writers, but by the one Word of everlasting truth, the Bible.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- All the passages here listed, including those from the Old Testament, should be compared also with the original tongues. The texts are then to be written out and the pertinent words and phrases underscored.

John 6, 40.44.

Matt. 24, 3.14. (Cp. Matt. 13, 39.)

1 Cor. 15, 24.

2 Pet. 3, 10.

Matt. 5, 18.

Ps. 102, 26.27.

2 Pet. 3, 7-12.

Is. 65, 17. (Cp. Is. 66, 22.)

2 Pet. 3, 13. (Cp. Rev. 21, 1.)

On the basis of the conclusions reached through the study of the passages and the discussion in class write out one or more statements, arranging the deductions in some logical order.

We note here that the day of resurrection will also mark the end of this world and will bring a destruction of this earth, with heaven and earth coming to ruin and passing away.

Guiding Questions.-- How will the destruction of this present earth and heaven be brought about? Which signs will immediately precede the coming of the Last Day and the end of the world?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The end of time and the beginning of eternity. The destruction of the earth by fire. The attendant circumstances of the end of the world.

ETERNAL DAMNATION.-- Just as unbelievers, in spite of the testimony of their conscience, deny the justice and retribution of God, just as they try to ridicule the existence of angels, both good and bad, so they also reject the teaching of a punishment visited by God upon those who here on earth lived a life of sin and shame. Since the daring claims of unbelief are made with great assurance in every agency of communication, newspapers and magazines, sermons, addresses, and the radio, Christians who believe in the truth of Holy Scripture must constantly fortify themselves against these attacks by the statements made in God's inspired account of Himself and His works.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- In addition to the English text, which should always be consulted in its context, literal renderings, also of the Old Testament passages, should be available. These should be written out and the pertinent words and phrases underscored.

Dan. 12, 2.

Luke 16, 23-25.

Matt. 8, 12.

Rev. 20, 10.

Is. 66, 24.

Mark 9, 43.45. 48.

Rev. 14, 10.11.

Matt. 10, 28.

Matt. 25, 41.

2 Thess. 1, 9.

Matt. 10, 15. (Cp. Luke 10, 12.)

On the basis of a careful study of the passages listed and the discussion in class, write out the conclusions arrived at, in a series of statements logically arranged.

We note here that the punishment of the damned is clearly taught in the Bible, that its torments are described to the extent of our present understanding, and that there will be degrees of torment.

Guiding Questions.-- What proof have we for the fact that eternal damnation was not intended by God for human beings? How are we to understand the term "eternal destruction"? Of what nature will the torments of hell be?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- Gehenna as a picture of hell and its torments. The eternity of damnation and its torments. The use of fire as a means of torment.

ETERNAL LIFE.-- In all our lessons on the doctrines of the Bible we have noted the fact that the matters revealed in the Word of God are far above and beyond human understanding, and that we are bound to accept His revelation just as it is contained in the Bible. The unbelievers who speak of annihilation at the end of life will naturally repudiate also the idea that God has prepared a merciful reward for the believers, a heaven where they shall dwell with Him throughout eternity. Christians must brush aside all objections on the part of unbelief, no matter in what form it shows itself, and turn to the Word of God for information also on the topic of heaven and eternal life.

The Most Important and Significant Passages.-- All the passages listed here should be compared, if at all possible, with a literal translation from the original. The exact translation is then to be written out and the significant words and phrases underlined.

Matt. 25, 46.

Titus 3, 7.

Rom. 6, 23.

John 3, 15.16.

1 John 2, 25.

1 John 3, 2.

1 Thess. 4, 17.

Job 19, 26.

John 17, 24.

Phil. 1, 23.

2 Tim. 2, 10.

Ps. 16, 11.

Is. 35, 10.

The conclusions, as drawn on the basis of the study of the texts and the discussion in class, are to be written out and arranged in a logical form, in one or more statements.

We note here not only the fact of eternal life, but also the revelation concerning those who will receive the mercy of the Lord and wherein the bliss of heaven will consist.

Guiding Questions.-- What is the bliss of heaven on the physical side? Wherein will the bliss of heaven chiefly consist? What will be the occupation of the elect in heaven?

Suggestions for Projects and Term Papers.-- The full restoration of the image of God in the elect in heaven. The significance of seeing God as a part of eternal bliss.